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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN (J. MUDGE), INL (M. MCCOWAN) AND
G/TIP (M. HALL)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SMIG](#) [SNAR](#) [KZ](#)

SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ASKS FOR
HELP AGAINST NARCOTICS AND TRAFFICKING

REF: ASTANA 33

11. (SBU) Summary: Minister of Internal Affairs (MVD)
Baurzhan Mukhamedzhanov told Assistant Secretary Boucher,
National Security Council Senior Director Elisabeth Millard,
and Ambassador Ordway that Kazakhstan wants to expand
cooperation in counter-narcotics, efforts to combat
trafficking in persons, security cooperation, and other
specific ongoing law enforcement and investigative issues.
Drug trafficking is growing "geometrically," and Kazakhstan
wants training, information, and "new methods" to deal with
the problem. End summary.

COOPERATION AND EXPANSION OF EFFORTS

12. (SBU) Minister Mukhamedzhanov opened the May 5 meeting by
thanking A/S Boucher for the United States' assistance and
cooperation in helping Kazakhstan to strengthen its police
force and supporting law enforcement investigations. He
praised the good working relationship between our two
nations. He stressed his concern about the rapidly growing
problems of drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, and
asked "what can we do about drugs from Afghanistan?" A/S
Boucher echoed Mukhamedzhanov's satisfaction with the
current working relationship and expressed a desire to
expand that relationship to further counter drug trafficking
and trafficking in persons (TIP). A/S Boucher highlighted
the fact that the United States spent \$600 million on
counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan last year, that
there is a possibility that Afghanistan's drug crop will be
bigger than ever this year, and that trafficking is a large
concern for the United States in the Central Asia region.

CARICC AND COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION AND TIP

13. (SBU) A/S Boucher inquired as to the status of the
Central Asia Regional Information Coordination Center
(CARICC), an intergovernmental anti-narcotics center to be
located in Almaty. Mukhamedzhanov explained that CARICC
falls under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(MFA) in cooperation with the United Nations. However, he
met yesterday with Foreign Minister Tokayev and the Chairman
of the CARICC Committee Tazha on logistical questions,
including the exact location of the building, who the
employees would be, and where they would live. A/S Boucher

then expressed interest in the anti-TIP training center in Karaganda (reftel) becoming a regional center, similar to the CARICC project.

14. (SBU) Mukhamedzhanov requested further cooperation, training and information sharing on counter-narcotics efforts. He cited statistics that show a geometrical growth in narcotics trafficking: 2.5 times more drug addicts than previous years, some as young as 14. A/S Boucher agreed that good opportunities exist to share information, techniques and knowledge.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

15. (SBU) Turning to more sensitive topics, A/S Boucher asked the Minister about the ongoing Sarsenbaiuly murder investigation, including the status of cooperation with the FBI. Boucher expressed concern that while some have already been arrested and charged, there are possibly others involved who may still be free. He stressed the importance of taking the investigation to its completion and emphasized that the United States would judge the success or failure of the process based on the report generated by the FBI. Mukhamedzhanov praised the support and cooperation that Kazakhstan has received from the United States and the FBI, citing that this is the first instance in which they have involved another country in their investigation of an internal issue. The Minister explained the process of the case according to Kazakhstani law, stating that all of the investigations are complete and now the lawyers for all sides are familiarizing themselves with the 25 volumes of reports. The next step is for an open hearing, including

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press, of the accused.

16. (SBU) Mukhamedzhanov mentioned that the investigators feel that those arrested, including Ibragimov and Utembayev, are part of a larger group containing former police officers who have participated in previous killings over the years. He seemed confident that there was sufficient evidence to prove this in open court, as well as evidence to overcome Utembayev's recant of his initial confession. Mukhamedzhanov also clarified that plea bargaining exists for those who wish to share information in exchange for a lesser sentence.

RESTRICTED MOVEMENTS

17. (SBU) A/S Boucher closed the meeting by asking about the apparent deterioration of the status of opposition leaders and journalists. He highlighted the recent beating of Atbakiyev (a journalist from AinaPlus) and expressed hope that there would be a full investigation and prosecution for the perpetrators. Mukhamedzhanov countered that there had been a similar beating of another journalist that has not been discussed in the press at all. He affirmed that the Ministry deals with law enforcement issues and not politics and that all crimes are investigated and prosecuted regardless of an individual's political leanings.

18. (SBU) Boucher asked about Galymzhan Zhakiyanov's situation, as the rules of the game seemed to have changed. Mukhamedzhanov explained with some frustration that the Ministry and the police force, in Zhakiyanov's case, had the obligation to enforce the terms of his parole, but not the tools. According to the Minister, previously Zhakiyanov only had to inform MVD of his movements, but not ask for permission. Now the court has ruled that Zhakiyanov must ask permission to travel outside of Almaty and wait for a ruling before traveling. As such, Zhakiyanov was effectively blocked from attending Vice President Cheney's

roundtable with Kazakhstani opposition leaders on May 6. Mukhamedzhanov explained that Zhakiyenov was expected in court at 2:30 Friday afternoon to plead his case to travel to Astana, a day before the event. (Note: The hearing actually addressed a separate issue and Zhakiyanov was not allowed to raise the question of travel to Astana. End note.) A/S Boucher expressed his very strong interest that Zhakiyanov be able to attend the event, noting that both President Bush and Vice President Cheney highly value the opinions of not only their counterparts, but also other voices.

UPCOMING INL VISIT

19. (SBU) Both A/S Boucher and Minister Mukhamedzhanov praised cooperation to date on counter-narcotics and anti-TIP efforts, and expressed the intent to continue to work together on these fronts. A/S Boucher reminded the Minister of Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Anne Patterson's upcoming visit to Astana the following week. Minister Mukhamedzhanov said that he was looking forward to talking with her about specific cooperation efforts.

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